

Memorial Day is unique among American holidays. On Memorial Day, we do not honor a particular date or event, a battle or the end of a war. On Memorial Day, we do not honor an individual leader—a President or a general.

On Memorial Day, we pay homage to the thousands and thousands of individual acts of bravery and sacrifice that stretch back to the battlefields of our Revolution and to those taking place today in conflicts across our world.

Last month, I was reminded of the significance of this day when I welcomed 76 Michigan World War II and Korean war veterans to Washington from Michigan's Upper Peninsula as part of the Honor Flight Network.

These veterans visited the World War II and Korean war memorials, and at the end of the day, received personalized notes thanking them for their service. The mission of the Honor Flight Network is a fitting tribute to our "greatest generation."

This Memorial Day we not only honor past generations, but our current generation of young men and women who are serving or have come home. In April, 350 airmen and 12 A-10 Thunderbolt II planes from our Selfridge Air National Guard Base deployed to the Middle East to fight the terrorist group ISIL as part of Operation Inherent Resolve.

This Memorial Day is a reminder of our obligation to honor our commitment to all our generations of veterans by making sure they have the support they need and the benefits they deserve.

As we observe this holiday, let us remember the centuries of sacrifice by the many men and women that this day represents. And let us make sure that all who served with honor are honored in return.

#### REMEMBERING CORPORAL BRYON K. DICKSON

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I wish to honor Corporal Bryon K. Dickson, a Pennsylvania State trooper who was killed in the line of duty on September 12, 2014. Corporal Dickson was a resident of Dunmore, PA, who served our Commonwealth and our Nation with honor, valor and distinction.

Corporal Dickson spent the majority of his life in service to others. A graduate of Wyoming Area High School, he entered the Marines after high school and served with honor for 4 years. Following his discharge, Corporal Dickson went on to study at the Pennsylvania State University, where he earned a degree in the administration of justice before entering the Pennsylvania State Police Academy.

As a member of the Pennsylvania State Police, Corporal Dickson distinguished himself as a passionate and dedicated officer. He became a certified drug recognition expert and devoted himself to removing impaired drivers

from Pennsylvania's roads. In recognition of his efforts, Corporal Dickson received several awards from the Pennsylvania DUI Association, and numerous State police commendations. At the time of his death, he was a 7-year veteran of the force, serving as the patrol unit supervisor for Troop R at the Blooming Grove Barracks.

Corporal Dickson represented the very best of law enforcement in Pennsylvania and around the country. He wanted to help his community, so he put himself at risk every day to keep us safe. He ultimately gave, as Abraham Lincoln once said, "the last full measure of devotion" to his Commonwealth and his country. We owe him a debt of gratitude for that sacrifice.

As he was laid to rest, thousands of police officers from around the country, some from as far away as Alaska, lined the streets of Scranton, PA to pay their final respects to Corporal Dickson. He was eulogized by police commissioner Frank Noonan as a "steadfast soldier of the law." But Corporal Dickson was more than just a brave public servant. In addition to being an honored marine, and distinguished State trooper, he was a devoted family man who "took perfect care of his wife" and handcrafted flawless wood toys for his two young sons. He was, most importantly, a loving husband, father, son, brother, uncle, and friend; and that is how he will be most dearly remembered.

My thoughts and prayers will remain with his wife Tiffany, his two children Bryon III and Adam, and all those who knew and loved Corporal Dickson. May he rest in peace. And may his sacrifice never be forgotten.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING THE LOUISIANA VETERANS FESTIVAL

• Mr. VITTER. Madam President, today, I recognize the Second Annual Louisiana Veterans Festival taking place on May 16, at the Northshore Harbor Center in Slidell, LA. The event is hosted by the East St. Tammany Habitat for Humanity, which constructs homes for low-income families in Louisiana, including veterans. The event offers an opportunity for families of military personnel and members of the community to celebrate and thank veterans for their service to our Nation.

Habitat for Humanity's efforts are incredibly important, especially for our veterans. When we send our American citizens to war, we make a promise to protect them and a commitment to support them when they return home. Habitat for Humanity's work ensures that many will have a home when they return.

Throughout America's history, our military has bravely defended our Nation—especially our beliefs and values—from the threat of tyranny and

oppression. Our service men and women have defended us in all corners of the Earth, and they continue to defend us today. It is through the service and devotion of the military members and our veterans that our Nation has remained the strong America we know today. For their sacrifices, we owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

Through my work in the United States Congress, I have had the privilege of meeting with veterans throughout the State of Louisiana, from World War II veterans to recent veterans from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. I am humbled by the stories of heroism and selflessness. May we never forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms.

It is our responsibility to remember their courage, not only in ceremonies such as the Veterans Festival in Slidell, but also every day. Louisiana is blessed to have such a successful organization with so many dedicated workers and volunteers building a better future for our veterans and their families. We honor those who have served for us and have given so much, and I am pleased to recognize the Second Annual Louisiana Veterans Festival and the East St. Tammany Habitat for Humanity for its role in building homes for veterans.●

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on Finance:

Report to accompany S. 995, A bill to establish congressional trade negotiating objectives and enhanced consultation requirements for trade negotiations, to provide for consideration of trade agreements, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-42).

Report to accompany S. 1267, An original bill to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-43).

Report to accompany S. 1268, An original bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-44).

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1287. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program for viral hepatitis surveillance, education, and testing in order to prevent deaths from chronic liver disease and liver cancer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 1288. A bill to require States to implement a cash withdrawal daily limit for recipients of cash assistance under the temporary assistance for needy families program; to the Committee on Finance.